NUMB. X.

The GUARDIAN.

Venit ad me ſæpe clamitans ——
Veſtitu nimium indulges, nimium ineptus es,
Nimium ipſe eſt durus præter æquumq; & bonum. Ter.

Monday, March 23. 1713.

WHEN I am in deep Meditation in order to give my Wards proper Precautions, I have a principal Regard to the Prevolence of things which People of Merit neglect, and from which thoſe of no Merit raiſe to themſelves an Eſteem; of this Nature is the Buſineſs of Dreſs. It is weak in a Man of Thought and Reflection to be either depreſſed or exalted from the Perfections or Diſadvantages of his Perſon. However there is a reſpective Conduct to be obſerved in the Habit, according to the eminent Diſtinction of the Body either way. A gay Youth in the Poſſeſſion of an ample Fortune could not recommend his Underſtanding to thoſe who are not of his Acquaintance more ſuddenly, than by a Sobriety in his Habit: As this is winning at firſt Sight, ſo a Perſon gorgiouſly fine, which in it ſelf ſhould avoid the Attraction of the Beholders Eyes, gives as immediate Offence.

I make it my Buſineſs when my Lady *Lizard*'s youngeſt Daughter, Miſs *Molly*, is making Cloaths, to conſider her from Head to Foot, and cannot be eaſie when there is any doubt lies upon me concerning the Colour of a Knot, or any other part of her Head-dreſs, which by its Darkneſs or Livelineſs might too much allay or brighten her Complexion. There is ſomething looſe in looking as well as you poſſibly can; but it is alſo a Vice not to take Care how you look.

The Indiſcretion of believing that great Qualities make up for the want of things leſs conſiderable, is puniſhed too ſeverely in thoſe who are guilty of it. Every Day's experience ſhews us, among variety of People with whom we are not acquainted, that we take Impreſſions too favourable and too diſadvantageous of Men at firſt ſight from their Habit. I take this to be a point of great Conſideration, and I ſhall conſider it in my future Precautions as ſuch. As to the Female World, I ſhall give them my Opinion at large by way of Comment upon a new Suit of the *Sparkler*'s, which is to come home next Week. I deſign it a Model for the Ladies; ſhe and I have had three private Meetings about it. As to the Men, I am very glad to hear, being my ſelf a Fellow of *Lincoln College*, that there is at laſt in one of our Univerſities riſen a happy Genius for little things. It is extremely to be lamented, that hitherto we come from the College as unable to put on our own Cloaths as we do from Nurſe. We owe many Misfortunes, and an unhappy Backwardneſs in urging our way in the World, to the neglect of theſe leſs Matters. For this reaſon I ſhall authorize and ſupport the Gentleman who writes me the following Letter; and though out of diffidence of the Reception his Propoſal ſhould meet with from me, he has given himſelf too ludicrous a Figure; I doubt not but from his Notices to make Men who cannot arrive at Learning in that Place, come from thence without appearing ignorant; and ſuch as can, to be truly knowing without appearing Booki-ſh.

To the GUARDIAN.

SIR, *Oxford, March* 18. 1712-13.

'I Foreſee that you will have many Correſpondents in this Place; but as I have often obſerved, with Grief of Heart, that Scholars are wretchedly ignorant, in the Science I profeſs, I flatter my ſelf that my Letter will gain a Place in your Papers. I have made it my Study, Sir, in theſe Seats of Learning, to look into the Nature of Dreſs, and am what they call an *Academical Beau*. I have often lamented that I am obliged to wear a grave Habit, ſince by that means I have not an Opportunity to introduce Faſhions amongſt our young Gentlemen; and ſo am forced, contrary to my own Inclinations, and the Expectation of all who know me, to appear in Print. I have indeed met with ſome Succeſs in the Projects I have communicated to ſome Sparks with whom I am intimate; and I cannot without a ſecret Triumph confeſs, that the Sleeves turned up with Green Velvet, which now flouriſh throughout the Univerſity, ſprung originally from my Invention.

'As it is neceſſary to have the Head clear, as well as the Complexion, to be perfect in this part of Learning, I rarely mingle with the Men, (for I abhor Wine) but frequent the Tea Tables of the Ladies. I know every part of their Dreſs, and can name all their Things by their Names. I am conſulted about every Ornament they buy; and, I ſpeak it without Vanity, have a very pretty Fancy

(Price Two Pence.)